

## May 2003 Newsletter

Dear Friend:

It is with great enthusiasm that I send you this e-mail - the first of what will be regular updates about my work as your U.S. Representative in Washington. These e-mails are intended to better inform you of actions taken by Congress, and will better facilitate communication between us. It is vitally important that I hear about issues important to you, and you learn what is going on in Congress. Thank you for taking the time to read this information.

Recently, Congress tackled many important issues with very serious implications for New Mexico and for the country. One of the most important issues facing us today is our nation's sluggish economy. Rather than pass fair, fast acting and fiscally sound legislation to provide targeted tax cuts for those who truly need assistance, the House missed another opportunity to stimulate real job growth. On May 22, 2003, the House passed the so-called Jobs and Growth Tax Act of 2003 by a vote of 231-200. Click here for more information.

<http://www.tomudall.house.gov/display2.cfm?id=5808&type=Issues>

In a strong bipartisan fashion, the House also overwhelmingly passed an extension of unemployment benefits by a vote of 409-19. This legislation is critical to helping turn around our economy. People in New Mexico are hurting. Since January 2001, the unemployment rate in our state has risen to 5.9%. While every single person on unemployment would rather have a job, until the economy reverses, we in Congress have a moral obligation to help the jobless make ends meet. The extension will help nearly 5,000 New Mexicans who still have not found jobs, and were scheduled to exhaust their federal benefits at the end of this month. Click here for more information.

<http://www.tomudall.house.gov/display2.cfm?id=6014&type=Issues>

On another important front, I have introduced legislation to better protect the meat and poultry we put on our dinner tables. As you no doubt have heard, Canadian authorities have confirmed a case of Mad Cow Disease. As this news broke, I already was preparing legislation to give the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture authority to issue mandatory recalls of tainted meat and poultry products - a power the secretary does not currently have. Currently, the USDA and processors now share the responsibility for "voluntary" recalls under a system that both the industry and consumer groups criticize as cumbersome and ineffective. While companies supposedly make the decisions voluntarily whether to issue recalls, the USDA announces them. I believe the Secretary of Agriculture must have the authority to mandate recalls when our food supply is compromised. Click here for more information: <http://www.tomudall.house.gov/issues2.cfm?id=5979>

These are just a few of the many actions taken on legislation recently in Congress. In addition to work I do in Washington, there are other ways I can assist you in New Mexico. If you are encountering problems with a federal agency, we may be able to help you. As you may know, I have six offices throughout Northern and Eastern New Mexico

that are open to help you. Click here to learn where they are located:

<http://www.tomudall.house.gov/display2.cfm?id=5266&type=KidsZone>

I employ a team of Constituent Services Representatives in my New Mexico offices that receive hundreds of calls and letters each week from constituents seeking assistance. My staff members specialize in working with constituents who have encountered problems with government agencies and would be happy to assist you. Click here to see how we can help: <http://www.tomudall.house.gov/display2.cfm?id=4895&type=Services>